



Media Advisory

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
David A. Berns, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

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Visit our DES web site at
www.azdes.gov

- WHO*:** DES Director David Berns, foster family representatives, local licensing agencies, child advocates and community volunteers.
- WHAT:** In celebration of National Foster Care Awareness Month in May, five hundred child welfare advocates and community members will gather to tie nearly 9,000 blue ribbons (one for every child in Arizona's foster care system) on the trees at Heritage Square. The ribbons will stay up throughout May in recognition of the increasing numbers of children in foster care in Arizona, and the critical need for foster families and case managers.
- Foster family representatives and DES Director David Berns will tie blue ribbons signifying the number of children need homes in Arizona during a press conference at the event that will begin at 4:00 p.m.
- WHY:** Too many abused and neglected children are lingering in shelters or group homes because of the lack of foster homes to meet their needs. The goal of foster care is to find for each child a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible, but with existing foster homes filled to capacity, options for children already in the system and those entering the system are few. Often, children are in multiple placements before the appropriate placement is found.
- WHEN:** Thursday, May 19, 2005
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Ribbon tying event
4:00 p.m. Press conference
- WHERE:** Heritage Square
7th Street and Monroe, Downtown Phoenix